

gered. Shame when the word "Nazi" can waive the Constitution. No one around here supports Nazis. Neither do I. I am tired of the accusation. I am proud of the fact that someone at least in this Congress intervened. Now it is time for Attorney General Janet Reno to do her job and investigate fully this matter. The rights of the American people deserve that investigation.

THE DEMOCRATS' NEAR PANIC

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times recently described the Democrats as being in a "near panic over how they are perceived by the public." Everyone saw the Democrats on the floor last week. The only thing they can do is attack the Republicans' contract with America—they have no platform of their own to stand on because their President and his administration has failed to deliver on their promises.

People in a near panic try to distort their opponent's platform to cover up the fact that they have no platform—that is exactly what the Democrats are doing. People in a near panic make wild accusations about their opponent's issues because they have no issues of their own to talk about—that is exactly what the Democrats are doing. People in a near panic try to paint their opponent as the bad guy because they cannot portray themselves as the good guy based on their own merits—that is exactly what the Democrats are doing. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are in a near panic, and it is showing.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP WILL END POLITICS AS USUAL

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, if the American people decide to elect a Republican majority in the House this November, we will end politics as usual.

On the very first day of the new Congress, the Republican majority would immediately pass the following reforms and write them into the rules of the House of Representatives that determine how it conducts its business for the whole 2 years.

One, require all laws that apply to the rest of the country to apply equally to the Congress.

Two, select a major independent auditing firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of Congress' own finances for waste, for fraud, and for abuse.

Three, cut the number of House committees and cut committee staffs by one-third.

Four, limit the terms of all committee chairmen.

Five, ban the casting of proxy or ghost voting in committees.

Six, require all committee meetings and hearings to be open to the public, the Sunshine Act.

Seven, require a three-fifths majority vote to pass any tax increase.

Eight, require zero-based budgeting which means no more accounting gimmicks to call a special increase a spending increase.

Mr. Speaker, give us a chance to govern this House of Representatives. We will change the way business is done in the U.S. Congress.

COLUMBUS DAY

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a week from now the Nation celebrates Columbus Day.

We recognize him of course, for discovering America over 500 years ago. Amazingly, that is a feat the President and his party have yet to accomplish.

I say this because they continue to oppose the only document in Washington today that encompasses America's demand for change: Republican's contract with America.

By opposing a balanced budget amendment, term limits, a line-item veto, and help for America's families, Democrats have missed the boat. The President and his party insist on mimicking the flat-earthers of yesterday who could not see beyond the horizon.

Five hundred years ago, they would have remained in Spain, firmly attached to the Old World rather than attempting to find the New.

They would have waved good-bye at the docks, full of reasons why it could not, should not, or would not be done. And when the ships returned, they would have been just as full of doubts that America had been found.

Republicans are reenacting Columbus' voyage because like him, we have discovered America and we have the contract to prove it.

□ 1210

GATT IS BAD FOR AMERICA

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I voted for NAFTA, I voted for fast track, and now I feel totally betrayed by what is in GATT and the dishonest way it is being handled here in the Congress. I voted for fast track because it gave Congress 90 days to look at and discuss this very important trade treaty.

Instead of open and adequate discussion, we have secrecy, and not just fast track but grease track. The President has broken faith with all of us by putting secret provisions into GATT in the first place, and then instead of giving us 90 days to look at GATT, he put it

before us and gives us only 1 or 2 days here at the last part of the session to look at GATT, further breaking faith in that there are provisions in GATT or in the implementing legislation that are not even required by GATT.

I would ask my friends who believe in free trade, and do I believe this free trade, my voting record demonstrates this, let us not get hustled. GATT is horrible for the American people. Let us take out the rip-off provisions for our inventors, for example, that slipped into GATT, and let us spend some time looking at this treaty rather than just pushing it on through. It is going to hurt America otherwise.

FEDERAL PAYMENT FORMULA REVISION ACT OF 1993

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I call up the bill (H.R. 2902) to amend the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act to revise and make permanent the use of a formula based on adjusted District General Fund revenues as the basis for determining the amount of the annual Federal payment to the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MONTGOMERY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, under my reservation I yield to the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from California [Mr. STARK], for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding. I would like to thank the committee ranking member, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY], for his efforts on behalf of this legislation, and I thank the delegate from the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 2902 is to reauthorize the Federal payment to the District of Columbia for fiscal year 1996. Last week, the House District Committee adopted a bipartisan substitute which maintains the 1996 Federal payment authorization at the 1995 appropriation level; namely, \$600 million. This is an interim approach, and I will continue to advocate use of a formula in future years.

The bill as reported, Mr. Speaker, also includes a framework for performance and accountability standards, which the District must begin to implement almost immediately.

Micromanagement of the District of Columbia is not the role of the Congress. Nevertheless, we must receive accurate details about the city's financial and management practices in order to carry out our responsibilities.

It is important that the Congress complete action on this bill now so that the city and OMB can better plan for fiscal year 1996. I urge its adoption.